GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:148
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
VIOLATION OF WILDLIFE LAWS
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Special Cell to register the cases of violation of laws relating to wildlife in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of violation of the said laws in the country reported during the last two years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to deal with such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a),(b),(c)& (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c) and (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 148 REGARDING `VIOLATION OF WILDLIFE LAWS` BY SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA AND SHRI 1VIADHU GOUD YASKHI DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.10.2008.

(a),(b) Government of India has established the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in June 2007 as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, amended in 2006. Consequent upon its creation,the erstwhile Regional Offices of Wildlife Preservation located at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, and Kolkata and the Sub Regional Offices at Cochin, Guwahati and Amritsar have been made part of the Bureau and a new Regional Office has also been set up at Jabalpur. The main objectives of the Bureau are to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime and to disseminate the same to State/UTs and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals, establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank etc.

(c) The details of the number of cases of violations of wildlife related laws reported by the Regional Offices of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau within their jurisdiction is at Annexure I.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to check wildlife related offences are as follows:

i. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972,thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
ii. The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended from time to time and made,more stringent against wildlife related offences.
iii. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
iv. Regular training courses are conducted for other concerned departments and enforcement agencies like Customs,Para military forces etc for better appreciation of wildlife offences.
v. The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.
vi. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes,viz,`Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries`, `Project Tiger` and `Project Elephant` for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife.